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An Honor For Dr. Rose

The president of the University of Alabama, Dr. Frank A. Rose, has been selected as one of eight private citizens who have been asked to serve on an 18 member advisory group that will attempt to work out satisfactory methods of open, above-board federal financing of approved overseas activities of deserving American students and organizations.

Undoubtedly, as Birmingham News correspondent James Free suggests: "Of all the critical and important assignments that have come to Dr. Rose, the one President Johnson last week asked him to take must rank at, or very near the top."

To understand the significance of the appointment, it must be recalled that earlier this year when the President sacked the practice of funding student propaganda activity by the Central Intelligence Agency, he also ordered an end to all federal agency financial support to educational or private voluntary organizations.

What this means, then, is the advisory group members have the job of picking up the wreckage of the controversial, under-cover financing and attempting to find a solution to a problem of vital concern to the government. In other words, what Dr. Rose and his associates have been asked to resolve is: What is the right way to do the job?

The earlier uproar and exposure connected with what was regarded as surreptitious payments to private groups did great damage to the CIA as well as to many well-known foundations, student organizations and individuals who were involved. And while what was done may have been well worth doing in some instances, it is generally conceded that it was done in the wrong manner and through the wrong channels.

Therefore, it is encouraging to recognize the high caliber of the advisory group and to know that its mission has top priority at the White House.

Among others asked to serve on the committee, which will be headed by Secretary of State Dean Rusk, are: Attorney General Ramsay Clark, Budget Director Charles Shultz, Dr. Milton Eisenhower (president of Johns-Hopkins University), Senators Carl Hayden, Richard Russell, William Fulbright and Milton Young. Also included are four members of the House of Representatives and several other well-known private citizens.

Dr. Rose's appointment to this prestigious group was announced before his much publicized run-in with some over-zealous state legislators in connection with the "Emphasis '67" controversy at the university last week, but just the same this new assignment might well serve to point out that the University of Alabama president is highly respected on a national and international level as well as for his highly regarded position as an educator and administrator in the State of Alabama.